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In making broth cultures the writer always inseminated the flasks by means of a thin drawn-out glass rod long enough to project above the mouth of the flask; one end is held in the fingers, and the rod passed 7 times slowly through the flame. The other sterilized end is drawn over the culture, the rod is then passed into the flask between the cotton wool plug and the glass till the end touches the bottom, the unsterilized part of the rod projecting above the plug.

The curious form of growth on the surface of the glass seems to be characteristic of the plague microbe; it proves a useful test because some idea can be formed before the stalactites have had time to grow.

*Microscopic examination.*—The plague microbe stains readily with aniline dyes, but not by Gram's method. The bipolar staining in stained specimens when the ends are found to be deeper stained than the center is by no means a constant phenomenon and can not be relied on for diagnosis. Mr. Watkins-Pitchford (Report on antiseptics, Bombay, April 22, 1898) considers it due to a greater collection or condensation of the protoplasm in these regions. He notes that the spots are readily visible in the living and unstained specimens, so they can not be due to staining.

The bacillus is polymorphic; it is sometimes seen as a very short bacillus, almost like a coccus or diplococcus, at other times as a short stumpy bacillus with rounded ends.

On page 134 of the article by Dr. Overbeck and Professor Kossel will be found a bibliography of the works referred to by the learned physicians, including, among others, works by Professors Koch, Gaffky, Klein, Kolle, Weichelbaum, Abel, etc., reference to some of which will be made in a supplemental report on this subject.

Respectfully,

FRANK H. MASON.  
*United States Consul-General.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

#### ALASKA.

#### *Sanitary conditions among natives in vicinity of Dutch Harbor—Prevalence of tuberculosis.*

DUTCH HARBOR, ALASKA, *September 16, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to report as follows on the general sanitary condition and health of the natives in this immediate vicinity: As far as my observation has extended, I would say that tuberculosis, in some form, is the most prevalent disease. At the Jessie Lee Home, an institution conducted by the missionary society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, there are about 35 native and half-breed children. Their ages range from 18 months to 18 or 20 years. Of this number, fully one-half are afflicted with tuberculosis in some form. The most prevalent form is glandular tuberculosis, especially of the cervical and axillary glands. I have also seen several cases of tuberculosis of the osseous system, including the vertebrae and ulna, and 1 case of joint tuberculosis, including the shoulder joint. Pulmonary tuberculosis is also quite frequent, there having been 3 deaths from that disease in the village of Unalaska since June 1, 1902, out of a total population of 220. There are several cases of syphilis in the village, and 1 case has the saddle nose deformity quite well marked. Pneumonia is also quite frequent. The conditions under which the natives live are not hygienic, to say the least, although I am told that they live much better than the natives in some other portions of the Aleutian Islands.

There have been no cases of epidemic or quarantinable disease among the natives of this locality, nor, as far as I can ascertain, among the natives of the other islands of the group this summer.

The vital statistics of the village of Unalaska, Unalaska Island, in my

